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ABSTRACT

Designed to help teachers plan focused field trips, this guide was developed by the Field Museum of Natural History in Chicago, Illinois, and parts of it focus specifically on the Field Museum. The overall thrust of the guide, however, is on helping educators to better utilize museums in general; the guide should prove helpful to any teacher interested in more worthwhile field trips, and trips to museums in particular. The guide is intended for use not only by classroom and student teachers, but also by teachers of educational methods courses, directors of student teaching, those conducting in-service training programs for teachers, and by museum educators, who would find it helpful for enhancing their own expertise in object-based teaching techniques, for training guides, and for developing programs for teachers in their own institutions. Divided into four sections the first section describes the philosophy, strategies, and techniques of museum teaching. The second section describes the overall structure of field trips and includes ideas for activities to be done before, during, and after the trip, as well as helpful tips from teachers at each stage. The third section provides a general orientation to the Field Museum of Natural History, information about its resources for teachers, and some ideas for field trip experiences. Many of these ideas can be easily adapted for use in other natural history museums, zoos, aquariums, and even art and history museums, as well as being useful to Chicago-area teachers who bring their classes to the Field Museum. The fourth section of the guide offers a checklist for planning a field trip and a 36-item bibliography for more information. (DB)

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